

CHAPTER 2.3.3.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Article 2.3.3.2.

Country, zone or compartment free from bovine tuberculosis

To qualify as free from bovine tuberculosis, a country, *zone* or *compartment* should satisfy the following requirements:

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2. an on-going awareness programme ~~should be~~ **is** in place to encourage reporting of all cases suggestive of tuberculosis;

Comment: the suggested change makes this sentence consistent with the preceding requirement/recommendation.

3. regular and periodic testing of all cattle, ~~and~~ water buffalo ~~and wood bison~~ herds has shown that at least 99.8% of the herds and 99.9% of the animals in the country, *zone* or *compartment* have been found free from bovine tuberculosis ~~and the percentage of herds confirmed infected with *M. bovis* has not exceeded 0.1% per year~~ for 3 consecutive years;

General Comment: The program in the United States requires either slaughter surveillance or live animal testing or a combination of both. For free status the US program requires disease prevalence to be 0.0% in a State or *zone*. Our requirement of 0.0% prevalence is stricter than the allowance of 0.1% permitted under the OIE recommendations. In effect, the OIE recommendations would allow 1 affected herd in an area of over 1000 herds each year while the US program would remove free status in the same area if a second affected herd is found within 4 years of detecting the first affected herd. For the United States, with approximately one million herds of cattle, under OIE recommendations, up to 999 herds per year could be TB affected and still retain its TB-free status. The OIE *Ad hoc* group on bovine tuberculosis may want to consider revising downward (below 0.1%) the prevalence allowed to be considered “free”.

USA Comments – Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
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